

subtraction. In addition, the receiver must run before the transmitter in order to maintain the maximum latency at two buffer times. An event triggered at the time of the first sample of a buffer received during a time slice K-1, will be detected during processing in slice K. The answer may appear as the first sample of the buffer transmitted during slice K+1. Thus, if the transmitter had run before the receiver, then the event might only have been responded to in the first sample of the buffer transmitted in slice K+2, making the latency three buffer times.

Therefore, echo canceler processing on delayed transmitter data is performed first (step 70). Then receiver processing is performed on the difference between the received samples from time slice K-1 and the samples generated by the echo canceler process in slice K (step 72). Finally, transmit processing is performed, generating a buffer full of samples to be transmitted during time slice K+1 (step 74) and stored in delay registers 35.

Thus, utilizing the buffer switching mechanism of the present invention, resistance to interrupt latency can be maximized. In the example provided above, buffers of size 256 at 8000 samples/sec yields 32 ms buffer times. Assuming thirty percent processing period gives a maximum interrupt latency of 22.4 ms, which provides a very large time margin. In addition, a side benefit of using long buffers is lowered CPU utilization in terms of lowered overhead enabling the CPU to perform other functions. The main benefit provided by the present invention is the ability of an NSP modem to conform to the strict time constraints of the higher bit rate modem standards (e.g., V.32 9600 bps) V.32bis 14.400 bps and V.34 28.800 bps).

In addition, if for any reason one of the modems requests a retrain process during a connection, the buffer size can be changed back to a short buffer size so that a retrain process can occur. At a later time, the buffer size is switched back to a larger buffer size.

While the invention has been described with respect to a limited number of embodiments, it will be appreciated that many variations, modifications and other applications of the invention may be made.

What is claimed is:

Please cancel claims 1 - 12.

1. A method, in a communications system, of achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said method comprising of the steps of:

utilizing sample buffers having a first buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;
utilizing sample buffers having a second buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead; and
providing switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when the modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when

a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

6. A system, in a communications system, for achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said system comprising:

means for utilizing sample buffers having a first buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;

means for utilizing sample buffers having a second buffer size when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead; and

switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

9. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when the modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

10. The system according to claim 6, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

11. A method, in a communications system, of achieving a balance between processing response time, on one hand, and robustness to interrupt latency and processor implementation overhead, on the other hand, said communication

10

system including a receiver, transmitter and associated receive sample buffer and transmit sample buffer, wherein sample processing is divided into time slices within said communication system, said method comprising of the steps

5 of:

utilizing receive and transmit sample buffers having a first buffer size L1 when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to have quick processing response times;

10

utilizing receive and transmit sample buffers having a second buffer size L2 when it is desired to optimize said communication system so as to be robust to interrupt latency and to have low processor implementation overhead;

15

providing switching means enabling said communication system to dynamically switch between using said transmit and receive sample buffers having a size L1 and a size L2;

20

making a determination to switch buffer sizes before the activation of said transmitter during time slice N;

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L1 during time slice N-1;

25

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N;

processing a receive buffer of length L1 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N+1; and

30

processing a receive buffer of length L2 and a transmit buffer of length L2 during time slice N+2 and during time slices thereafter until such decision to switch buffer sizes.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the size of said transmit and receive sample buffers is coherently

35

switched without any loss of data.

* * * * *

Please add new claims 13-52:

13. A method achieving a
balance between response time
system latency, said communication
system including a receiver,
5 transmitter and associated receive
sample buffer and transmit sample
buffer, wherein sample processing is
divided into time slices within said
communication system, said method
10 comprising of the steps of:
- employing receive and
transmit sample
buffers having a first
15 buffer size L1 capable
of quick response
times;
- employing receive and
20 transmit sample
buffers having a
second buffer size L2
capable of
25 accommodating
system latency;
- employing a switching device
enabling said
communication
30 system to dynamically
switch between using
said transmit and
receive sample
buffers having a size
35 L1 and a size L2;
- making a determination to
switch buffer sizes
before the activation
40 of said transmitter
during time slice N;

45 processing a receive buffer of
 length L1 and a
 transmit buffer of
 length L1 during time
 slice N-1;

50 processing a receive buffer of
 length L1 and a
 transmit buffer of
 length L2 during time
 slice N;

55 processing a receive buffer of
 length L1 and a
 transmit buffer of
 length L2 during time
 slice N+1; and

60 processing a receive buffer of
 length L2 and a
 transmit buffer of
 length L2 during time
65 slice N+2 and during
 time slices thereafter
 until such decision to
 switch buffer sizes.

14. The method of claim 13,
wherein the size of said transmit and
receive sample buffers is coherently
switched without any loss of data.

15. A system for achieving a
balance between response time and
system latency in a communication
system, said system comprising:

5 sample buffers having a first
 buffer size capable of
 quick response times;

10 sample buffers having a
 second buffer size
 capable of
 accommodating
 system latency; and

15

a switching device capable of
dynamically
switching between the
use of said buffers
20 having a first buffer
size and said buffers
having a second
buffer size.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein
said second buffer size is robust so
as to accommodate system latency.

17. The system of claim 15,
wherein said sample buffers are
maintained in a memory.

18. The system of claim 15,
wherein said sample buffers are
maintained in physical buffers.

19. The system of claim 15,
wherein said dynamic switching is
performed in response to
5 communication system operating
requirements.

20. The system of claim 15,
wherein said system latency
comprises interrupt latency.

21. The system of claim 15,
wherein said system latency
comprises bus latency.

22. The system of claim 15,
wherein said system latency
comprises both interrupt latency and
bus latency.

23. The system of claim 15, wherein
the size of said sample buffers is
coherently switched without any loss
of data.

24. The system of claim 15, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

5 25. The system of claim 15, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

5 26. The system of claim 15, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a retrain sequence has been initialized, wherein said communication system implements an International Telecommunication Union standard chosen from the group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

5 27. A system for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said system comprising of the steps of:

10 sample buffers having a first buffer size capable of quick response times;

15 sample buffers having a second buffer size that is robust so as to accommodate system latency; and

20 a switching device capable of dynamically switching between the use of said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

28. A system for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said system comprising:

- 5 a sample buffer that is
 variable in size,
 wherein the sample
 buffer has a first
10 buffer size capable of
 quick response times
 and a second buffer
 size capable of
 accommodating
15 system latency; and

 a switching device capable of
 dynamically
 switching between
20 said first buffer size
 and said second
 buffer size of the
 sample buffer.

29. A machine readable medium containing executable instructions which, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform the steps of a method for achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, the method comprising:

- 5 employing sample buffers
 having a first buffer
 size capable of quick
 response times;

10 employing sample buffers
 having a second
 buffer size capable of
 accommodating
 system latency; and

15 dynamically switching
 between the use of

said buffers having a first buffer size and said buffers having a second buffer size.

30. The medium of claim 29, wherein said second buffer size is robust so as to accommodate system latency.

31. The medium of claim 29, wherein said dynamic switching is performed in response to communication system operating requirements.

32. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises interrupt latency.

33. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises bus latency.

34. The medium of claim 29, wherein said system latency comprises both interrupt latency and bus latency.

35. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample buffers is coherently switched without any loss of data.

36. The medium of claim 29, wherein said second buffer size is greater than said first buffer size.

37. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample buffer is switched to said first buffer size when a modem connection is reinitialized or restarted.

38. The medium of claim 29, wherein the size of said sample

5 buffer is switched to said first buffer
size when a retrain sequence has
been initialized, wherein said
communication system implements
an International Telecommunication
Union standard chosen from the
group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

5 39. A machine readable medium
containing executable instructions which,
when executed by a machine, causes the
machine to perform the steps of a method
for achieving a balance between response
time and system latency in a
communication system, the method
comprising:

10 employing sample buffers
having a first buffer
size capable of quick
response times;

15 employing sample buffers
having a second
buffer size that is
robust so as to
accommodate system
20 latency in said
communication
system; and

25 employing a switching device
capable of
dynamically
switching between the
use of said buffers
having a first buffer
30 size and said buffers
having a second
buffer size.

5 40. A machine readable medium
containing executable instructions which,
when executed by a machine, causes the
machine to perform the steps of a method
for achieving a balance between response

time and system latency in a communication system, the method comprising:

- 10 employing a sample buffer
 that is variable in size,
 wherein said sample
 buffer has a first
15 buffer size capable of
 quick response times
 and a second buffer
 size capable of
 accommodating
20 system latency; and
- 20 employing a switching device
 capable of
 dynamically
 switching between
25 said first buffer size
 and said second
 buffer size of said
 sample buffer.

41. A method of achieving a balance between response time and system latency in a communication system, said method comprising:

- 5 employing sample buffers
 having a first buffer
 size capable of quick
 response times;
- 10 employing sample buffers
 having a second
 buffer size capable of
 accommodating
15 system latency; and
- 20 employing a switching device
 capable of
 dynamically
 switching between
 said buffers having a
 first buffer size and

said buffers having a
second buffer size.

42. The method of claim 41,
wherein said second buffer size is
robust so as to accommodate system
latency.

5 43. The method of claim 41,
wherein said dynamic switching is
performed in response to
communication system operating
requirements.

44. The method of claim 41,
wherein said system latency
comprises interrupt latency.

45. The method of claim 41,
wherein said system latency
comprises bus latency.

46. The method of claim 41,
wherein said system latency
comprises both interrupt latency and
bus latency.

47. The method of claim 41,
wherein the size of said sample
buffers is coherently switched
without any loss of data.

48. The method of claim 41,
wherein said second buffer size is
greater than said first buffer size.

5 49. The method of claim 41,
wherein the size of said sample
buffer is switched to said first buffer
size when a modem connection is
reinitialized or restarted.

50. The method of claim 41,
wherein the size of said sample
buffer is switched to said first buffer
size when a retrain sequence has

5 been initialized, wherein said
communication system implements
an International Telecommunication
Union standard chosen from the
group of V.32, V.32 bis and V.34.

51. A method of achieving a
balance between response time and
system latency in a communication
system, said method comprising:

5 employing sample buffers
 having a first buffer
 size capable of quick
 response times;

10 employing sample buffers
 having a second
 buffer size that is
 robust so as to
15 accommodate system
 latency in said
 communication
 system; and

20 employing a switching device
 capable of
 dynamically
 switching between
 said buffers having a
25 first buffer size and
 said buffers having a
 second buffer size.

52. A method of achieving a
balance between response time and
system latency in a communication
system, said method comprising:

5 employing a sample buffer
 that is variable in size,
 wherein said sample
 buffer has a first
10 buffer size capable of
 quick response times
 and a second buffer

15 size capable of
accommodating
system latency; and

20 employing a switching device
capable of
dynamically
switching between
said buffers having a
first buffer size and
said buffers having a
second buffer size.